

Torrance, California  
June 11, 1940

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday evening, June 11, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being  
Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent:  
Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held May 28, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Elsie Smith, Chairman, Women of the Moose, asking the City to participate in a parade to be held June 21, 1940 preceding the Women of the Moose installation. Mrs. Smith outlined the program briefly. Mayor McGuire told Mrs. Smith she could expect an answer within a short time.

A communication was read from Ralph R. Perry, expressing thanks for the use of the Civic Auditorium for a meeting held by property owners who are attempting to refund the Normandie Avenue Improvement District.

A communication was read from the Southern California Edison Co., Ltd., advising that a new set of street light rates became effective May 1, 1940 and suggesting that lamp sizes be increased at

no additional cost due to the rate reduction.

A communication was read from Alianza Hispano-Americana, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium for various activities planned for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of its members. The communication was signed by Leo Barrerra, President of the organization.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be deferred until such time as the Council can discuss the matter with Mr. Barrerra to ascertain exactly what is desired. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Pacific Electric Railway Company, together with executed copy of agreement covering acquisition of right of way in Cabrillo Avenue and abandonment of tracks, and confirming statement that Pacific Electric will furnish without expense to the City necessary supervision of work that is to be done by the City in removing the tracks and appurtenances.

A recommendation that Cora B. Parrot be granted permit to sell fireworks at 1427 Marcelina Avenue, signed by W. R. West, Captain, Torrance Fire Department, was read.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A recommendation that Charlie Prutch be granted permit to sell fireworks at (1) 23823 Narbonne Avenue and (2) 2206 - 239th Street, signed by J. R. Winters, Captain, Torrance Fire Department, was read.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the requests be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician, recommending (1) the removal of the sodium vapor light at the intersection of 101 Highway and Ocean Avenue and replacement of same with a clear light and (2) installation of a new clear mast arm light at the north side of 101 Highway and Neece Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendations be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, agreeing to step down from his present position as Chief of the Police Department, if such be the desire of the Council, and reassume the position of Captain in the Police Department, effective on or after June 16, 1940.

Councilman Murray moved that the communication be placed on file. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock asked what the intent of the motion is, to which Councilman Murray replied the purpose is to "just not accept it at this time indefinitely".

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1388

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO RETURN A CERTAIN PORTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH CENTER PROPERTY TO THE CITY.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1388 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1389

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AGREEING TO TERMINATION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT DATED ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 1st, 1926, FOR 10-INCH WATER PIPE LINE UNDER TRACK OF THE RAILWAY COMPANY AT MILE POST 6 - 2432.05' HARBOR DISTRICT, TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1389 be adopted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1390

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AGREEING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT BETWEEN C. W. HYDE AND ASSOCIATES, INC., AND ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT ENGINEERS.

Attorney McCall explained briefly that Mr. Hyde, being so far removed from the scene, had requested permission to assign said contract to Associated Assessment Engineers.

After a short period of discussion, Mr. Greig of the Associated Assessment Engineers was requested to meet with the Council at an informal meeting for discussion of this matter, to which Mr. Greig agreed, a date to be arranged in the near future.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read in full:

ORDINANCE NO. 319

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR LICENSING AND REGULATING THE CARRYING ON OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONS, TRADES, CALLINGS AND OCCUPATIONS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE; PRESCRIBING THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE AND PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

A long period of discussion ensued, at which time Councilman Babcock stated he had asked that the ordinance be presented upon request of the Chief of Police. He said the ordinance as presented is a copy of the County ordinance licensing and regulating operation of pin or marble machines. Several sections of the ordinance were discussed at some length. Councilman Powell said he felt the business should be regulated and licensed in some manner, but he felt the power should be vested in the City Council and not the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock said very few cities who are members of the League of California Cities have ordinances regulating this business. Councilman Murray said a written request had been received from the Chief of Police to adopt an ordinance regulating and licensing pin and marble machines. Mayor McGuire pointed out that, according to the proposed ordinance, one company would be allowed a monopoly on the business, in that one clause specifies that the Chief of Police shall grant not more than one license per 12,000 population. Councilman Hitchcock said he recalled that the Council endeavored a year or two ago to pass a pin ball ordinance and were informed by District Attorney Fitts that such an action could not be legally taken.

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Mayor McGuire asked Attorney McCall about the legality of adopting an ordinance regulating pin or marble machines, to which Attorney McCall replied he thought the City could legally regulate and tax the machines.

Councilman Babcock moved that action on proposed Ordinance No. 319 be deferred until the matter has been more thoroughly discussed by the Council, Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock suggested that Chief of Police J. H. Stroh be asked to explain the ordinance in detail.

Engineer Young presented an application of Gamby and Theo Boss for building permit for a residence on the South  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 15, Block 8, Tract 4070, which property, according to the newly adopted zoning ordinance, is zoned for single family residences. Mr. Young said a small house exists on the lot at this time, which had been moved there with the intention of building the residence dwelling for which a building permit is requested at this time. Engineer Young read a communication from the Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association, advising that the Boss's application for a loan to build the house had been approved.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that, in view of the above facts, and in view of the fact that the new ordinance does not take effect for several weeks, the request of Gamby and Theo Boss for a building permit be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$42.85, plus sales tax, be made for one (1) Model 81A Remington rifle, 30 caliber, for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$57.69, plus sales tax, be made for 1 Model 11-R Remington Automatic shotgun for the Police Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a prepared statement regarding the recent appearance of the City Council before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury, stating that Mayor McGuire had requested the Grand Jury to submit a letter to the Council absolving the City Judge of any guilt in the charge of an alleged shortage in funds collected as fines and bails, which request had been refused, Councilman Powell said, the Foreman stating that the evidence proved to the satisfaction of the Grand Jury that there had been a breach of the law on the part of the City Judge and that it was up to the City Council to take care of the matter, since the office of the City Judge is an appointive one, held at the pleasure of the City Council. Upon hearing this, Mayor McGuire withdrew his request for the letter. At this time Councilman Powell stated he requested that the Grand Jury send a letter to the City Council stating their findings to the effect that there had been a breach of the law on the part of the City Judge. The Council was advised that the letter would be sent.

Mayor McGuire said he and Councilman Powell had requested the letter but that to date it had not been received. He said Mr. Bartlett had called the foremen of the Grand Jury and had been informed there was nothing in the minutes to warrant the letter. Mayor McGuire added, however, that he was quite convinced Mr. Hahn of the Grand Jury had said the letter would be forwarded to the Council.

Councilman Powell called attention to the disreputable condition of the flags on the City buildings, mentioning particularly the flag on the Library Building. Clerk Bartlett advised a flag had been ordered for the Library and is expected tomorrow (June 12).

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$150.00 be made for drill press and grinder for the shop for the Street Department. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$130.16 be made for material for repairs of Ocean Avenue in Walteria. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$80.34 be made for one (1) 2" compound meter for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Brock, who submitted a request several weeks ago for grading and improvement of his property on Hawthorne Avenue, requested a communication from the City advising him of all action taken from the time the request was submitted to the time it was dismissed. Clerk Bartlett was instructed to forward a letter to Mr. Brock, as requested.

Mr. Barrerra in the audience asked about his request for use of the Civic Auditorium for the Alianza Hispano Americano organization and was requested to meet with the Council after the meeting for discussion of the matter.

Mr. Klusman inquired how much the City had paid Grover Whyte for publishing the new zoning ordinance in the Torrance Herald. He said the maps which were a part of the ordinance and printed as such covered a lot of blank space in the paper and asked if the City paid for the blank space. He asked if the delinquent tax list had been noticed.

Mrs. Catherine Fink, representing South Torrance, asked what procedure is necessary to obtain a sewer line in that district. A petition bearing sixty-seven signatures was filed, requesting the service.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be instructed to contact Mr. Warren, Chief Engineer, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, and ascertain whether or not the Vista Highlands Sewer Project now in progress can be extended to include the South Torrance district. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Young said a survey and study of the district will be necessary and added that at the present time, the engineers and surveyors are occupied with the Vista Highlands Sewer Project. He said, however, he will contact Mr. Warren as requested.

Albert Isen repeated Mr. Klusman's question as to how much the city had paid Mr. Whyte for printing the zoning ordinance in the Torrance Herald. He was advised he could inspect any and all bills paid by the City at any time he so desires. Mr. Whyte informed Mr. Isen that the Torrance Herald has had the advertising contract with the City for the past fifteen years, during which time the rates have remained the same. He said the maps in question had been carefully scaled and said that, even then, the size had required such small printing on the maps as to require a reading glass.

Mr. Isen insisted that the bill be read before payment is made and was advised that all bills will be read if he so desires.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 318

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING THE CLOSING UP, VACATING AND ABANDONING IN WHOLE OF A PORTION OF NEWTON STREET.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 318 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 318 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned to June 18, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance